



Volume 35

San Francisco, California, February, 1953

Number 2

1952 SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Dec. 21. Area covered: Marina, Lincoln Park, Twin Peaks, Sutro Forest, Land's End, Presidio, Golden Gate Park, Stern Grove, Treasure Island, San Francisco bayshore, Pacific Ocean beach, Seal Rocks, Lake Merced.

Arctic loon 1, red-th. loon 35, red-n. grebe 1, hor. grebe 14, eared grebe 52, w. grebe 295, pied-b. grebe 32, br. pelican 23, do.-cr. cormorant 225, Brandt cormorant 31, pelagic cormorant 2, grt. bl. heron 5, Am. egret 11, blk.-cr. n. heron 2, Can. (cackling) goose 1, mallard 869, Am. widgeon 521, pintail 3, shoveller 18, wood duck 4, ring-n. duck 26, canvasback 45, lesser scaup 50, Am. golden-eye 2, wh.-w. scoter 14, surf scoter 98, ruddy duck 587, red-br. merganser 3, sharp-sh. hawk 1, Cooper hawk 2, red-t. hawk 6, spar. hawk 34, Cal. quail 276, Va. rail 1, Fla. gallinule 2, coot 1692, snowy plover 1, killdeer 135, blk.-bel. plover 13, surf-bird 14, ruddy turnstone 1, blk. turnstone 40, long-b. curlew 2, spot. sandpiper 1, wand. tattler 1, willet 81, least sandpiper 8, red-b. sandpiper 15, w. sandpiper 80, sanderling 409, avocet 1, glau.-w. gull 291, w. gull 1009, herring gull 57, Cal. gull 1818, ring-b. gull 247, short-b. gull 988, Bon. gull 16, Heermann gull 10, For. tern 1, murre 8, mour. dove 4, Anna hummingbird 97, bel. kingfisher 2, red-sh. flicker 93, acorn woodpecker 1, downy woodpecker 10, blk. phoebe 34, hor. lark 37, scrub jay 11, raven 2, crow 12, ches.-b. chickadee 62, pl. titmouse 2, bush-tit 52, red-br. nuthatch 21, creeper 5, wren-tit 2, winter wren 3, Bew. wren 8, mockingbird 1, robin 311, var. thrush 41, her. thrush 62, w. bluebird 20, gold.-cr. kinglet 15, ruby-cr. kinglet 50, water pipit 58, log. shrike 17, Hut. vireo 5, Aud. warbler 150, Town. warbler 4, yellow-throat 17, house sparrow 382, w. meadowlark 226, Br. blackbird 269, purple finch 7, house finch 363, siskin 19, lesser goldfinch 23, sp. towhee 19, Sav. sparrow 7, Ore. junco 409, wh.-cr. sparrow 1067, gold.-cr. sparrow 75, fox sparrow 96, song sparrow 135. Total species 107, total individuals 14,557.

Group leaders: A. Boles, C. L. Carson, A. L. Curl, C. H. Fox, J. T. Hedgpeth, J. W. Kelly, A. H. Myer, H. G. Peterson, R. H. Pray, T. E. Reynolds, C. Sather, F. A. Scott, M. Van Scyoc. Observers: P. Aljian, S. Bozant, M. Browne, J. Clay, R. Conte, E. Davey, J. Denham, M. Graves, J. Guggolz, C. A. Harwell, R. Higgins, J. Johnson, W. Johnson, G. T. Kilham, E. Kilham, R. Kurtz, L. Henningsen, L. R. Leinbach, M. Leinbach, V. R. Lewis, R. Long, V. MacCaughy, O. J. Millard, A. Pierson, W. Pope, J. Reilly, W. Reilly, A. Rinehart, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Smith, L. Spencer, D. Twigg, P. R. von Hafften, E. Van Scyoc, P. A. Veitch, B. Wallace, H. Walsh. 50 observers in 12 parties.

ARTHUR H. MYER, *Chairman.*

1952 OAKLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Dec. 28. Area covered: Bay Farm Island, San Leandro Bay, Lake Temescal, Cascade (Orinda) Lake, S. end of San Pablo Reservoir, St. Mary's College, Lafayette, Redwood Canyon, Mountain View Cemetary, Tilden Regional Park, Sequoia Park, Mills College, Univ. of Cal., Leona Heights, East Bay shore from Pt. Isabel to Bay Bridge, Berkeley Aquatic Park.

Arctic loon 1, red-th. loon 11, red-n. grebe 1, hor. grebe 16, eared grebe 164, w. grebe 85, pied-b. grebe 23, wh. pelican 50, br. pelican 8, do.-cr. cormorant 51, grt. bl. heron 9, Am. egret 21, sn. egret 2, blk.-cr. n. heron 8, Can. goose 720, wh.-fr. goose 3, snow goose 1, mallard 85, Am. widgeon 488, pin-tail 391, grn.-w. teal 39, shoveller 51, ring-n. duck 87, canvasback 608, gr. scaup 1, lesser scaup 2328, Am. golden-eye 207, bufflehead 50, wh.-w. scoter 2, surf scoter 37, ruddy duck 3851, hooded merganser 10, Am. merganser 11, red-br. merganser 8, t. vulture 6, sharp-sh. hawk 7, Cooper hawk 1, red-t. hawk 21, red-shouldered hawk 1, marsh hawk 1, spar. hawk 39, Cal. quail 121, clap. rail 1, coot 2684, ringed plover 46, killdeer 44, blk.-bel. plover 57, ruddy turnstone 2, blk. turnstone 66, long-b. curlew 77, spot. sandpiper 1, willet 2231, gr. yellow-legs 7, Baird sandpiper 1, least sandpiper 10, red-b. sandpiper 82, dowitcher 41, w. sandpiper 5960, m. godwit 553, sanderling 372, avocet 926, glau.-w. gull 1548, w. gull 88, herring gull 45, Cal. gull 750, ring-b. gull 294, short-b. gull 55, Bon. gull 905, For. tern 180, Band-t. pigeon 41, mour. dove 42, bur. owl 1, short-e. owl 13, Anna hummingbird 39, bel. kingfisher 1, red-sh. flicker 85, acorn woodpecker 28, yel.-bel. sapsucker 3, hairy woodpecker 1, downy woodpecker 5, Nut. woodpecker 2, blk. phoebe 16, Say phoebe 4, hor. lark 1, Stel. jay 23, scrub jay 186, crow 12, ch.-b. chickadee 6, pl. titmouse 66, bushtit 195, wh.-br. nuthatch 12, red-br. nuthatch 4, creeper 1, wren-tit 29, house wren 1, winter wren 3, Bew. wren 8, mockingbird 8, Cal. thrasher 1, robin 2261, var. thrush 99, her. thrush 32, w. bluebird 44, gold.-cr. kinglet 3, ruby-cr. kinglet 79, water pipit 96, cedar waxwing 144, phainopepla 1, log. shrike 14, Hut. vireo 6, Aud. warbler 187, house sparrow 809, w. meadowlark 180, red-w. blackbird 57, Br. blackbird 1128, blk.-h. grosbeak 1, purple finch 13, house finch 472, siskin 65, Am. goldfinch 2, lesser goldfinch 209, sp. towhee 55, br. towhee 138, Sav. sparrow 43, rufous-cr. sparrow 5, slate-col. junco 1, Ore. junco 676, wh.-cr. sparrow 548, gold.-cr. sparrow 115, fox sparrow 9, Linc. sparrow 2, song sparrow 116. Total species 132, total individuals 34,098.

Observers: B. Adamson, H. Adamson, W. Armstrong, S. Bozant, D. Breneman, M. Browne, R. Canida, P. Covel, H. Curl, L. Curl, Mr. & Mrs. L. Dunlap, D. Farrow, P. Fawcett, T. Gentry, I. Gourley, J. Hedgpeth, L. Jensen, A. Johnson, J. Kelly, L. R. Leinbach, D. McDonald, A. Myer, B. Nielsen, G. Nielsen, D. Patton, H. Peterson, W. Pope, R. Pray, A. Rinehart, G. Rhodes, F. Scott, S. Sprunt, L. Stallcup, R. Traxler, E. Van Scyoc, M. Van Scyoc, P. Veitch, H. Wong. 39 observers.

HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Chairman.*

A total of 145 species was reported in the San Francisco and Oakland counts, with 94 species common to both; 13 species were found only in San Francisco, while 38 were found only in the Oakland area. Fifteen observers participated in both counts. The names used for the birds are the standard ones used in AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, in which counts from all over the United States and Canada are published. AUDUBON FIELD NOTES has adopted the system of using a single name for all of the subspecies of a given species, indicating the subspecies only in the comparatively few cases where they can be certainly identified in the field. The names adopted by AUDUBON FIELD NOTES are in most cases the same as those used in

Grinnell and Miller's *THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA* (1944). It is understood that the new edition of the Checklist of the American Ornithologists' Union will include a standard common name for each species of bird. Until this checklist is published, it appears best to use in general the nomenclature of *AUDUBON FIELD NOTES*. In some cases these names may be unfamiliar such as "lesser goldfinch" instead of "green-backed goldfinch". The latter term is unsuitable for the entire species since the other subspecies "Arkansas goldfinch" has a black back. Due to limited space, abbreviations were used for many of the bird names. The new editor is not certain how far he should go in this abbreviation and would appreciate suggestions.

OBSERVATIONS

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, after many years of generous service, has resigned as Editor of Observations. Hereafter all observations believed suitable for inclusion in *THE GULL* should be sent directly to the new editor.

Red-necked (Holboell's) grebes appear to be unusually common this winter: one at Berkeley Aquatic Park on Dec. 7 (Vee Curtis), Dec. 28 (Herbert Wong), Jan. 1 (Larry Curl), Jan. 4 (V. C.) and Jan 17 (L. C.); also at S. F. Yacht Harbor on Dec. 7 (Joel Hedgpeth), Summit St. Reservoir, Berkeley, on Dec. 20 (L. C.), and at Lands End on Dec. 21 (Harold Peterson); at least 3 on the field trip to Tomales Point on Jan. 11. Two or three loons (red-throated or arctic) have usually been at the Berkeley Aquatic Park recently (L. C.); a brown pelican was there on Dec. 26 (L. C.). Wood ducks: 2 at N. Chain of Lakes on Dec. 6 and one at Metson Lake on Jan. 3 (J. H.); 3 on San Pablo Reservoir on Dec. 7 and 4 at pond on Bear Creek Rd. on Dec. 26 (L. C.). Rough-legged hawk near Rio Vista on Jan. 3 (L. C.). Bush-tits feeding young in Alameda on Jan. 9, (Junea W. Kelly). Orange-crowned warbler, El Cerrito, from Dec. 7 to Jan. 10 (L. C.). Tolmie warbler in yard near Golden Gate Park on Jan. 2 (J. H.). Immature white-throated sparrow at Lafayette Square, S. F., (Mr. and Mrs. Geo. T. Kilham).

According to the U. S. Geological Survey Briones Valley Quadrangle map, the lake near the Orinda Country Club which we have been calling Orinda Lake is called L. Cascade.

The California Audubon Convention will be held at Asilomar on March 28-31, with Sandy Sprunt as Chairman and with Carl Buchheister and Edward F. Dolder as featured speakers. Asilomar has recently been purchased by the state as a new park; 27 acres have also been acquired including the lagoon near the mouth of the Carmel River as a bird sanctuary.

Included among the Breeding Bird Censuses published in the Dec. 1952 number of *AUDUBON FIELD NOTES* are two from California: Coastal Closed-cone Pine Forest near Inverness, by Robert A. Norris, and Salicornia—Spartina Salt Marsh near Richmond by Richard F. Johnston, both of the U. of Cal. Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

The Calif. Commission of Fish and Game has recently granted a permit to the San Diego Zoological Society to trap and cage one pair of Calif. condors for propagation purposes. It is the opinion of various conservation groups that this unessential disturbance to and reduction of the present breeding population is not in the best interest of the preservation of the species.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The 425th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the auditorium of the California Academy of Sciences, in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, on Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. From Bridge Terminal take either N car and transfer at 9th for No. 10 bus, or B car and transfer at 10th for No. 10 bus, which stops at the Academy. Following the business meeting, Mr. Lowell Sumner, Biologist in Region Four of the National Park Service, will give an illustrated talk on the wildlife of Katmai and Glacier Bay National Monuments in Alaska. Open to the public.

DOROTHY DEAN SCOTT, *Program Chairman.*

February — SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIR — Trip

On Sunday, February 15, to the area adjacent to and including San Leandro Reservoir, where we sometimes see Wood Ducks and Canada Geese. First we will visit St. Mary's Lake and after birding at the reservoir we will have lunch in lower Raccoon Canyon. Meet in the town of Moraga (south of Orinda Crossroads) at 9 A.M.

Leader, Lee Stallcup, LO. 9-3185. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes, and interested friends.

February — AQUATIC PARK — Trip

On Saturday, February 28th, to the Aquatic Park and Berkeley Pier. Meet at the KRE pool, junction of Ashby Avenue and Eastshore Freeway at 9 A.M. After birding at the Aquatic Park, we will walk out on the pier to look for Scoters, etc.

Bring lunch if desired, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends.

HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Chairman, Field Trips Committee.*

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following: from Berkeley, Mrs. Marion C. Smith, Miss Louise Strong; from Pleasanton, Capt. William G. Baldwin.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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For the Study and the Protection of Birds Branch of National Audubon Society

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

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